

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 06508 241441Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6983

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 6508

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (GEISEL, GEN. ERNESTO), BR

SUBJECT: GEISEL VISIT

REF: BRASILIA 6294

1. ON JULY 23, SILVEIRA'S CHIEF OF CABINET, AMBASSADOR SOUTO MAIOR, TELEPHONED DCM IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S QUERY (PARA 3 REFTTEL) AS TO REPLY TO PRESIDENT FORD'S INVITATION TO GEISEL. SOUTO MAIOR SAID THERE WERE STILL SOME "UNDEFINED AREAS" IN GEISEL'S SCHEDULE, WITHOUT GIVING DETAILS. THE SUBJECT OF GEISEL'S VISIT WAS DISCUSSED DURING SILVEIRA'S MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT JULY 22, HE SAID, BUT THE GOB DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO GIVE US A DEFINITE INDICATION UNTIL "SOMETIME IN MID-AUGUST."

2. SOUTO MAIOR INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER THIS INTERIM RESPONSE WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR US SIDE, WHEREUPON DCM OBSERVED THAT MID-AUGUST WOULD BE VERY CLOSE TO SEPTEMBER DATE PROJECTED FOR THE VISIT. SOUTO MAIOR QUICKLY REPLIED THAT THIS WAS UNDERSTOOD, AND THAT IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT US SIDE MIGHT WANT TO "INDICATE THAT IT WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY MAINTAINING SUGGESTED DATE."

3. SOUTO MAIOR THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF THE UTILITY
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 06508 241441Z

OF THE PLANNED POLICY PLANNING MEETING IN AUGUST (BRASILIA

6507).

4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE BRAZILIAN -- AND ESPECIALLY SILVEIRA'S --
PENCHANT FOR INDIRECTION, IT IS NOT EXTRAVAGANT TO SUSPECT
THAT SOUTO MAIOR, IN HIS ALLUSIONS TO THE POSSIBLE LAME-
DUCK STATUS OF DEPARTMENT POLICY PLANNERS, WAS INDICATING
GOB MOTIVES FOR FAILING TO RESPOND DEFINITELY TO THE
PRESIDENT'S INVITATION. THE SIMON VISIT, WITH ITS
ADVANCES ON TRADE ISSUES, LARGELY TOOK CARE OF THE
PRIOR CONDITIONS TO A VISIT ESTABLISHED BY THE GOB IN
THE FEBRUARY DISCUSSIONS., SINCE THEN, I HAVE THOUGHT THAT A PRIME
CONSIDERATION IN CONTINUING GOB EVASIVENESS WAS THE QUESTION
OF PRESIDENT FORD'S FUTURE STATUS.

5. LIKE GUERREIRO (REFTEL), SOUTO MAIOR SEEMS
INTERESTED IN GETTING US TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE -- AND
ONUS -- FOR CALLING THE VISIT OFF. ALTHOUGH I RECOGNIZE THAT
PRESIDENT FORD'S SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS MAY MAKE IT
IMPOSSIBLE TO WAIT UNTIL MID-AUGUST FOR A DEFINITE GOB
DECISION, I WOULD MUST PREFER THAT WE AVOID LETTING THE GOB GET
AWAY WITH ITS SHABBY PERFORMANCE, WHICH I CONSIDER TO BE AN
AFFRONT TO THE PRESIDENT, BY PERMITTING THEM TO PUT OUT
THE VERSION -- AS I SUSPECT THEY WOULD -- THAT THEY HAD TRIED
HARD TO SEEK MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DATES BUT IT HAD BEEN
IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE RIGIDITIES OF PRESIDENT FORD'S
SCHEDULE.
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